



July 6, 2006

Message from the Assistant Secretary

HHS Secretary Announces \$15 Million Collaboration on Prevention for Older Adults

I am pleased to share with you that HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt has announced a \$15 million collaboration with Atlantic Philanthropies to support the implementation of evidence-based programs that have proven to be effective in reducing the risk of disease and disability among older people. Under this exciting new initiative, AoA will provide competitive grants to states to establish evidence-based programs in at least three geographic areas. These programs will be delivered at the local level through aging services provider organizations, such as senior centers, nutrition programs, and faith-based organizations, in coordination with area agencies on aging and other partners. AoA will support partnership efforts in 10 to 12 states at up to \$300,000 each year over three years. HHS is providing support to the Center for Healthy Aging at the National Council on Aging to provide technical assistance to the state grantees and local projects. Through a grant of up to \$5 million to the Center for Healthy Aging at the National Council on Aging, the Atlantic Philanthropies also will provide additional financial support and technical assistance in up to five states that show significant potential in developing systems to reach large numbers of older adults. State Units on Aging and State Health Departments are eligible to submit grant applications by August 31. A copy of the Program Announcement can be found at: <http://www.aoa.gov/doingbus/fundopp/fundopp.asp>. For a copy of the full HHS press release visit: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2006pres/20060705.html>.

Josefina G. Carbonell

National Clearinghouse for Long-Term Care Information

The National Clearinghouse for Long-Term Care Information offers an example of how AoA, CMS, and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation in collaboration with the National Governors Association are working together to empower individuals to make informed decisions about their long-term care support options. This clearinghouse is mandated by Section 6021(d) of the Deficit Reduction Act passed in December 2005. It has two main components: a National Clearinghouse website and continuation of the Long-Term Care Awareness Campaign. The website will provide comprehensive and objective information about long-term care services, planning needs, and planning and financing tools, as well as

information on Medicaid and state partnership long-term care programs. It is being developed at AoA and is expected to be operational by mid to late September. The other component, the Long-Term Care Awareness Campaign, often referred to as Own Your Future, solicits Governors to develop and implement state campaigns to increase their residents' understanding of the need and ways to plan for their future long-term care needs. The Campaign, in May, sent out to Governors' offices a Request for Proposals to start its third year of state campaigns. For more information see AoA's Own Your Future website: <http://www.aoa.gov/LTC/index.asp> or contact Linda Velgouse at linda.velgouse@aoa.hhs.gov.

Minnesota Provides More Choices for High-Risk Individuals

The Minnesota Alternative Care Program is a state funded program developed to allow high risk individuals to make choices about services, delivery modes and service settings. Participants of the program are individuals aged 65 and over who are functionally eligible for nursing home admission but have chosen to receive services in their home or community, and whose income and assets are inadequate to fund a nursing home stay for more than six months. Participants pay a monthly fee, based on their income and total assets, ranging from 5% to a maximum of 30% of the cost of services. The program offers a full range of home and community based services, and uses consumer directed options including cash payments and the ability to hire one's own workers. Minnesota has reported that their Alternative Care Program, combined with other home and community-based service programs, facilitated their serving 25 percent more people (2001-2003) in the community while dollars spent for nursing home care declined during the same period.

A reverse mortgage incentive program, being considered by the Minnesota legislature, could help additional people utilize the Alternative Care program. The proposed reverse mortgage incentive program combines education and counseling, with reduced closing and loan servicing costs, and assistance through the Alternative Care program after the mortgagee has spent the majority of the reverse mortgage funds on services for at least 24 months or a sum of \$15,000. Those using their home equity to qualify for the Alternative Care program would not be required to pay the monthly participation fee and would not be subject to an estate claim by the state for services they received. For more information visit:

http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/aging/documents/pub/dhs_id_006284.hcs p.

Philadelphia Corporation on Aging Builds Prevention into Community Living

The Philadelphia Corporation on Aging was one of 13 organizations selected in 2003 as a grantee to participate in AoA Evidence-Based Prevention Grant program. AoA launched a new grants program and a public/private partnership to increase older people's access to programs that have proven to be effective in reducing their risk of disease, disability and injury. The program supports the HHS Secretary's Steps to a HealthierUS Initiative and AoA's Strategic Plan. The PCA project focuses on disease self-management using the Chronic Disease Self Management Program. The

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging was recently awarded one of Philadelphia's five major intervention grants to implement the STEPS to a Healthier Philadelphia. Four Philadelphia senior centers will be participating in the health promotion programs as they implement the Chronic Disease Self Management Program and the You Can: Eat Better, Move More nutrition education and physical activity program. For more information about AoA's Evidence-Based Prevention Grant Program go to: <http://www.aoa.gov/prof/evidence/evidence.asp>. For more information about the STEPS to a Healthier Philadelphia initiative visit: <http://www.philasteps.org/announcements.cfm>.

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About AoA

AoA works with a nationwide network of organizations and service providers to make support services and resources available to older persons and their caregivers. For more information about AoA, please contact us by mail at U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging, Washington, DC 20201; by phone at (202) 619-0724; by e-mail at aoainfo@aoa.gov; or visit us on the Web at www.aoa.gov.